

55. An communications for this paper should be accompanied by the name of the author, not necessarily for publication but as an evidence of good faith on the part of the writer. Write only on one side of the paper. Be particularly careful in giving names and dates to have the letters and figures plain and distinct.

#### AS YE WOULD.

If I should see  
A brother languishing in sore distress,  
And I should turn and leave him comfort-  
less,  
When I might be  
A messenger of hope and happiness—  
How could I ask to have what I denied,  
In my own hour of bitterness supplied?  
If I might share  
A brother's load along the dusty way,  
And I should turn and walk alone that day,  
How could I dare—  
When in the evening watch I knelt to  
pray—  
To ask for help to bear my pain and loss,  
If I had heeded not my brother's cross?  
If I might sing  
A little song to cheer a fainting heart—  
And I should seal my lips and sit apart,  
When I might bring  
A bit of sunshine for life's ache and smart—  
How could I hope to have my grief re-  
lieved,  
If I kept silent when my brother grieved?  
And so I know  
That day is lost wherein I fail to lend  
A helping hand to some wayfaring friend;  
But if it show  
A burden lightened by the cheer I sent,  
Then do I hold the golden hours well  
spent,  
And lay me down to sleep in sweet con-  
tent.  
—Edith V. Bradt, in London Chronicle.

## MY STRANGE PATIENT.

By William T. Nichols  
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#### IV.—CONTINUED.

I stared at him in blank amazement. What could he mean? Did he propose to retain me as his private physician? Was he sufficiently wealthy to indulge in such luxuries? His dress told nothing on that score. He might have been a thrifty mechanic or a millionaire.

"It is my wish," he went on, "first to travel, but not far, then to seek retirement of the quietest. Once you told a friend, a friend—he repeated the word as if to emphasize it,—'of a place near the sea, solitary, remote. Is it not so?'"

"Yes, I remember," said I, my thoughts flashing back to the conversation on the last night with Perez.

"My health is precarious," he continued. "I wish to be not disturbed, to be guarded from intrusion, as well as to receive medical attention when necessary."

"In other words," I suggested, "you wish me to accompany you to the spot you have mentioned, to remain with you, and to see to it that you have the privacy you desire."

"It is as you have said."  
"You ask a speedy decision?"  
"Immediate."

I looked at him doubtfully, as well I might after receiving such a proposal. He gauged my thoughts, no doubt, for he pressed me on the point where resistance would be weakest.

"You will be amply remunerated," said he. "May I ask the terms which will be agreeable, and which will suffice to repay your loss in leaving the city?"

The appearance of the room might have told him how little that loss would be. More to test him than with any well-defined idea as to the value of my services, I said:

"Two thousand dollars a year, and expenses, with an allowance for closing up my affairs here."

"It is agreed. Let us bind the bargain." And with that he drew from his pocket a roll of bills and held them out to me.

"When shall the arrangement take effect?" I asked.

"Now, from this moment. Shall it be so?"

I hesitated, but only for an instant. The sight of the money overpowered my doubts—it represented so much to one whose fortunes were so desperate.

"Yes," said I, "from this moment." And I took the roll of bills.

I had acted upon impulse, but it may be that long deliberation would have brought about the same result. I knew nothing of the man, except that he bore a token from my best friend. I was ignorant even of his name, for from the first I understood Lamar to be an alias. At his motives I could hardly guess, but it was most probable that he was a political exile. At all events, association with him could not change my condition for the worse. There would be at least the prospect of a decent livelihood; and very alluring that prospect was. In short, it was difficult to discover how I should be the loser. A moderately successful practitioner would have smiled at such an estimate as I had placed upon my services, but the experiences of the last year had not been conducive of over-confidence. So, now that I had put myself under this stranger's orders, I lost no time in asking him what the first of them might be. He replied that he was anxious to leave the city at once.

"There is little to detain me," said I. "I dare say I can be at your disposal by ten o'clock to-morrow morning."

"Not so. We must depart to-night," he answered, decisively.

"What? To-night? There is no train at this hour."

"I comprehend. But I prefer a carriage beyond the environs. One can be obtained, can it not?"

"Yes."

"Then arrange for it at once. You may return for a time, if there is need." Here was haste with a vengeance. Still, if he desired it, so should it be. It mattered little to me how the night was passed. He was paying for his right to command, and he should have the worth of his money.

"A conveyance shall be at the door in half an hour," said I. "Will you await it here?"

"No. But I will return in the time set," said he. "First pledge me again to maintain faith."

I gave the promise, and saw him step out into the night, without concerning myself greatly as to the probable outcome of our alliance. Then I went my way to rouse up the owner of a livery-stable near by and to bargain with him for a vehicle. Although he had never profited by my patronage, he knew me to be a physician, and therefore supposedly subject to late calls from distant patients. I had decided to drive to Merton, a town about 20 miles away, on the line of railway we would use in our journey. The man exacted a stiff price for the carriage, but there was no haggling over it, for I got as much pleasure as he from the exorbitant sum he demanded; there was certainly more of novelty for me in participating in such a transaction.

When, at the time appointed, Lamar returned to the office, he carried a small black satchel, which apparently contained all the effects he cared to take with him. The carriage was at the door, the driver grumbling to himself at the long ride which lay before him. Once in the vehicle, Lamar settled himself comfortably in his corner and lighted a cigar. The satchel was on the seat beside him. I observed that his hand never left it. Neither of us spoke often in the course of the drive. There were questions I burned to ask, but it was altogether likely that they would not be answered. As his employee, I felt compelled to respect his moods, and his present one was certainly that of reticence. Although the road was good, and the motion of the vehicle easy, I felt no drowsiness; my strange companion supplied me with abundant food for reflection. Our Jehu took his time, and the horses were not ambitious, but before daylight our destination had been reached. A sleepy attendant led us to our rooms in the Merton hotel, and a little later I was slumbering as peacefully as if I had been stowed away in my dingy quarters in the city, with never a prospect of an adventure more unusual than an encounter with a dunning creditor.

#### V.

Lamar's knock awakened me, and I arose refreshed and ready to carry out the scheme outlined the night before. A clock on the mantel showed that nearly half the day had slipped away. Dressing quickly, I passed into my companion's sitting-room, where a substantial breakfast was spread on the center-table. It had been arranged that we should shun the hotel dining-room, and a statement that Lamar was traveling under my professional care could be relied upon to quiet any curiosity developed by our exclusiveness.

Lamar was seated at the table, with a half-finished cup of coffee before him. The light from the window fell upon him, and for an instant I repented the bargain between us; for his face was one of the most repulsive I had ever been my lot to behold. The sallowness I had noticed was more pronounced, and there were lines which had escaped the scrutiny by lamplight. The chin was long and pointed, the cheeks were thin, and the forehead, though high enough to indicate no lack of brain-power, was narrow and wrinkled. There were hollows at the temples such as one often sees in sufferers from wasting diseases; with the dark circles under his eyes, they gave him the look of a man whose health was irretrievably shattered, though, as it proved, his physical condition was no matter of immediate concern. As has been said, his nose was large and curved, and his hair and mustache were streaked with gray. His teeth, which he seldom showed, were large, discolored and irregular. His eyes, above which the brows met in a bushy hedge, were small and deeply sunk in his head. There was hardly one of the man's features which was pleasing, and combined they made up a face almost grotesque in its uncomeliness; yet in studying the expression of his countenance one forgot his ugliness. It is the business of the physician sometimes to consider more than mere bodily ailments, to heed the signs and tokens of the forces of the animating spirit, to seek out the passions which have held sway and dominated the existence of the patient. Deceived somewhat at first by his appearance of decrepitude, I tried to solve the problem Lamar presented from a professional standpoint. There was power in his face; power, will, determination; much self-control, and more selfishness. Plainly, thought I, a man of bitter hates and few affections, unscrupulous and resourceful, now a fugitive, and bearing

in his eye the look of dread of his pursuers.

What brought him to such straits? Over and over again I asked myself the question. That political intrigues had made him an outlaw seemed to be the most natural explanation, but it failed to meet all the requirements of the case. A political offender, once in the United States, would be free to go about openly, yet here he was in hiding and anxious to reach a still more remote refuge. His manner was that of one accustomed to exercise authority. Why should he have intrusted his fate to a stranger, young and poor? Surely he might have commanded a far more powerfully ally. It was as if in his game with fate he had chosen to risk his all on the slenderest of chances and at the greatest odds.

He gave me time enough for these reflections; for after the first salutations he relapsed into silence. Perhaps he guessed what the trend of my thoughts would be, and was willing to allow me an opportunity to study him. Not until my meal was finished did he speak. He had lighted a cigar, and was watching the rings of smoke, which he blew very skillfully.

"So far all has gone well," said he. "Yet I would not delay; this I think you do comprehend. It is, however, my preference to travel by night. But first let me ask, you are still content with the agreement?"

"Perfectly," said I. It was not the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, but it served well enough.

"Very good. Then to consideration of an immediate matter. You will pardon me my slowness of speech in English—"

"But you speak it well," I broke in.

"I lived in England several years," he answered, but no sooner was the explanation made than he appeared to regret it; for he added: "But to our subject. Permit me to lay before you a plan."

"Pray proceed," said I, somewhat puzzled as to what was to come.

"This it is: That you, having this afternoon to do with as you may, return to the city and there conclude such affairs as are pressing. It is most probable that another opportunity so excellent may not present itself."

His meaning was sufficiently patent. Once we should have reached our destination he would prefer to have me without an excuse for revisiting my old haunts. Nothing, though, would suit me better than to fall in with his desire. So I said:

"If you will allow me until nine o'clock this evening, I promise to be free in every way to accompany you wherever you choose to go. My business can be closed in short order. You may rest satisfied that I shall say nothing of the change of my plans. In fact, I don't expect to excite any lively curiosity; it will be merely a case of another man dropping out of sight; the city is too accustomed to such disappearances to worry about another added to the list. Believe me, I don't regret our arrangement."

Regret it, indeed! The salary offered was ten times as large as my income for the last year. It would mean at least plenty to eat and plenty to wear, a comfortable home and freedom from the cares which had made life a bur-



"It is my preference to keep it," said he.

den. The wolf of poverty that had haunted my door would be driven on to howl about the dwelling of the next poor devil. At an earlier stage of my career I might have hesitated, have paused before consenting to bury myself in the country; but it is a rarely vigorous ambition that thrives on grinding monotony and grows strong through years of semi-starvation; mine was not made of such sturdy stuff. Had Lamar sprouted horns and displayed a cloven hoof I might have experienced qualms, but scarcely well-defined regrets.

Three hours later I was again in the city, and the few ties which had bound me to it were severed. The landlord took my departure philosophically; payment of the arrears of rent seemed to reconcile him to losing the tenant. A near-by practitioner gladly agreed to give room to my books until they should be sent for, and a junkman drove an easy bargain for my furniture. A valise was capacious enough to receive the few effects I cared to take away, and even its contents might have been parted with without great sorrow. There were no patients to worry about, and few questions to answer. To such as were put I replied that I had secured an appointment in the country; and even my professional brother did not

think it worth while to push the inquiry further. In short, my neighbors manifested no more curiosity about me than about the vanished builder of last year's bird's nest still swinging on a bough of the half-dead tree at the corner.

It would have been easy to return to Merton long before the appointed time, but I tarried in town to enjoy a luxury which had charmed my fancy on many a day when the cravings of hunger possessed me. There was a restaurant, famous far and near, a gastronomic Mecca to which many pilgrims journeyed joyously, under whose roof I was determined to dine. Often had I surveyed its glories from the pavement without, prowling about the place in fascination at the picture of good cheer visible through its windows. Now I was privileged to enter, strong in the consciousness that a roll of bills, still of goodly size in spite of the payments made from it, nestled in my pocket. Let it be confessed, however, that as I stepped through the doorway my hand was clutched about the money, as if in fear that it might vanish. Not until I had dined and the account had been liquidated did the dread of an awakening from so pleasant a dream disappear. The remembrance of that solitary feast will be always with me; for it brought the first convincing proof that the old period of stress was at an end.

A suburban train bore me to Merton early in the evening. I went at once to my employer's room. Before leaving the city I had secured time-tables of the road on which we were to make our journey, and had found that a through express stopped at the town at ten o'clock. Lamar was well pleased with this bit of information. He had not quitted his quarters in my absence, he said, and none of the hotel servants, except the somnolent porter who admitted us, had had a glimpse of his face, for he had kept out of sight, when food and drink were brought to his room. A little before ten o'clock I settled our reckoning, and we left the hotel by a side door, reaching the station just as the train rolled up to the platform. My companion chose a coach in which there were few passengers and, picking out a dark corner, buried his face in his upturned coat collar and pretended to sleep. One of his hands was clasped about the strap of his little valise, and not once in the course of the journey did he loosen his grip upon it.

There was a weary ride of several hours, and then an equally weary wait at a junction at which we were to take a train over a branch line; but long before the lazy folk—if there were any sluggards in that workaday region—were stirring, our travel by rail had been completed. We left the cars at Bassettville, the station nearest Rodneytown, which was separated from the railway by a ten-mile stretch of country. As it happened Sam Carpenter, the owner of a livery stable near by, who usually supplied conveyances to persons desiring to reach the village, was an acquaintance of my boyhood days. With him I was soon in friendly discourse.

"I've got a patient with me, Sam," said I, "and he wants to breathe pure sea-breezes. I'm taking him down to the old place. He needs good air and quiet."

"Well, he won't git much else, I guess," said the man, with all the contempt of the railroad town for a place less blest.

"Want a steady nag, don't ye? Take a boy along, or drive yourself?"

"Never mind about the boy; I know the way," I answered. "I'll see that the team gets back to you this afternoon."

A little later I drove up to the station where Lamar had been awaiting me. He climbed into the buggy with an agility which was surprising, considering his appearance of illness, and settled down beside me with the valise still in his hands. I offered to stow it away with my sole piece of luggage back of the seat, but he shook his head.

"It is my preference to keep it," said he. "It is not a burden."

The morning was fresh and clear, and as we drove along the charm of it gained possession of my senses. I forgot the fatigue of the night in a stuffy car and the fact that we had not breakfasted. About us were gently rolling hills, topped here and there by dark woods, below which stretched broad meadows and cultivated fields; a clear brook rippled near the road, which followed the tortuous course of its little valley; and overhead was a sky without a flock of cloud, in the heart of the spring morning the most glorious of canopies.

#### [TO BE CONTINUED.]

#### Death Atones for All.

"What is this?" thundered the chairman; "here is a newspaper report of an 'anarchist washed ashore.' Who has broken the rules of this order?"

"He was dead," said a member, rising, "or he would never have submitted."—Bay City Chat.

#### A Change for the Better.

Clergyman—I hope, my dear man, that you don't intend to go back to your old haunts when you get out?

Burglar—No, sir. Most of my trade has moved further up the avenue.—Town Topics.

—Thomas de Quincy is better known as the "English Opium Eater." It is a painful reference to the vice of which he was long the victim.

#### THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

International Lesson for October 18, 1896  
—Solomon's Wealth and Wisdom—1 Kings 4:25-34.

[Arranged from Peloubet's Notes.]  
GOLDEN TEXT.—Them that honor me I will honor, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.—1 Sam. 2:30.

THE SECTION includes the lesson and 1 Kings 4:25-34; 10:14-29; and the parallels 2 Chron. 1:13-17; 9:12-13, together with the example of Solomon's wisdom given in 1 Kings 3:16-28.

TIME.—The first half of Solomon's reign, B. C. 1015-995.

PLACE.—Chiefly Jerusalem, but extending over the whole country.

#### LESSON NOTES.

The Wealth and Worldly Grandeur of Solomon.—Vs. 25-28. A general view of the wealth and luxury of Solomon can be seen from the description given in both Kings and Chronicles, that he "made silver and gold at Jerusalem as papyrus as stones, and cedar trees made him as the sycamore trees that are in the vale for abundance." And from the account in Ecclesiastes 2:4-9.

Of the buildings erected in Solomon's reign there was first of all the beautiful temple, costing untold riches. His palace, which was 13 years in building, was built on Ophel, the southern continuation of the temple mount. The palace was not a single building, but a cluster. Solomon brought water from a distance in costly and magnificent covered aqueducts and vast subterranean conduits hewn out of solid rock, the first known in history. Parks, gardens and pleasure grounds or paradises were laid out. The whole territory of the 13 tribes was also protected for the first time by a number of strongholds. Jerusalem itself was inclosed with a new wall, fortified. All this in the earlier and wiser years of Solomon was accompanied by the general prosperity of the people. A great stimulus was given to trade and various industries. The people increased and lived in peace.

The Wisdom of Solomon.—Vs. 29-34.—It is entirely proper and natural that a consideration of Solomon's wisdom should follow the description of his wealth.

29. "And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much." His wisdom took many directions. He was wise as a judge, as an architect, as a statesman, in literature, in science. He had "largeness of heart;" that is, great capacity, "a comprehensive, powerful mind capable of grasping the knowledge of many and difficult subjects—poetry, philosophy, natural history in its various branches—he was master of them all."—Cambridge Bible.

32. "Spake three thousand proverbs." Of which some are contained in the Book of Proverbs, to which his name is given, but these are not all his, nor would all that are attributed to him there approach the number in the text. "His songs were a thousand and five."

Psalms 72 is ascribed to Solomon, and was probably his. The "Song of Solomon" is now regarded by the majority of later critics as later than Solomon, and rather expressing his sentiments, or concerning him, than written by him. Like, for instance, the speeches of Brutus and Mark Anthony in Shakespeare's Julius Caesar; still, as the Cambridge Bible expresses it, "their character is impressed upon this song." "Probably the bulk of Solomon's songs were of a secular character, and consequently were not introduced into the Canon."—Cook.

33. "And he spake of trees, etc.:" He gave descriptions of the whole vegetable world, and discussed the virtues of the various plants. For it has been always of their medicinal properties that the earliest works on plants have treated. They were the remedies for all diseases, and a knowledge of "simples," as they were called in England in old times, was counted for the highest wisdom.—Cambridge Bible. "Of beasts:" He enjoyed rare opportunities for becoming familiar with the various species of both the animal and the vegetable creation. His extended commerce with all nations brought to him specimens of all rare trees, plants and animals.—Pulpit Commentary.

Light for To-Day from Solomon's Wisdom.—Wisdom is good. It "excelleth folly as light excelleth darkness." Wisdom is the gift of God, opening to us channels of rich pleasure and important usefulness to our fellow-creatures. Solomon would not have us understand that for this world wisdom is no better than folly. He had found the contrary. Folly is always darkness. Wisdom is always light. "Worldly wisdom is light for this world, and for this world's work is as much better than folly as walking in the light is better than groping in the dark. But it is not a substitute for piety; it is the instrument of piety, adding to its power, and usefulness, and value. The better we are the more eagerly should we seek wisdom.

Then, as now, science was good—it helped to understand God when once God was known and loved; but as a substitute for God, as a way of salvation, as a satisfaction to the soul, it was vanity and vexation of spirit, a feeding on husks, a dry and desert land where no water is.

We learn a lesson from Solomon's career. All his wisdom did not keep him from falling into sin and folly. The wisest men need to learn the lesson of his life. "Fear God, and keep His commandments; for this is the whole duty of man." "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil."